

The Hour



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FATHER COUGHLIN DISTORTS AGAIN

Misquotes from John Reeves's Book While Trying to "Prove"
that Jews "Caused" America's Civil War of 1861-65

In Coughlin's weekly Social Justice for February 12, 1940 (Lincoln's Day), the fascist priest publishes an article entitled "Abraham Lincoln and Rothschilds," in which he attempts to "prove" that, in the words of the subtitle, "Civil War Was Not Fought Over Slavery But Financial Freedom," that Jews -- especially Rothschilds -- caused the Civil War in America for their own selfish purposes. In the course of the article Father Coughlin quotes from what he says is Page 228 of a book by John Reeves, entitled The Rothschilds, the Financial Rulers of Nations (Chicago: A. C. McClurg & Co., 1887). The quotation is of a speech made by Disraeli on the occasion of a marriage celebrated by the Rothschilds in the city of London in 1857. The Hour is in the position to state that Father Coughlin, or whoever wrote the article for him, deliberately misquoted Page 228 of John Reeves's book, cutting out some of Disraeli's praise for the Rothschilds and substituting fictitious words having to do with America, thus:

Coughlin's "quotation"
from John Reeves's book

Disraeli is reported to have said: "Under this roof are the heads of the family of Rothschild -- a name famous in every capital of Europe and every division of the globe. If you like, we shall divide the United States into two parts, one for you, James, and one for you, Lionel. Napoleon will do exactly and all that I shall advise him."

Actual text of
John Reeves's book

In the course of his speech he (Disraeli) made a remark worth reproducing: "Under this roof are the heads of the name and family of Rothschild -- a name famous in every capital in Europe and every division of the globe -- a family not more regarded for its riches than esteemed for its honor, virtues, integrity, and public spirit."

Such distortion and misquotation is an old method of Father Coughlin's. In his radio speech of November 20, 1938, he misquoted an article which appeared in the American Hebrew for September 10, 1920,

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in his attempt to "prove" that Jews were "responsible" for the Russian revolution. In the same speech he "quoted" from Nazi-invented "documents" calling them "the official White Paper issued by the English War cabinet in 1919," when he wished to "prove" that "Jewish bankers ... helped to finance the Russian revolution and Communism."

(Note: The above material, backed by photostatic evidence, was prepared for The Hour by the League for Human Rights of Cleveland, Ohio.)

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MOBILIZERS' HEAD CLAIMS CAUSE DESERTED BY REPUBLICANS

At a recent closed meeting of the Christian Mobilizers, Joseph McWilliams (CM kingpin) bitterly attacked the Union League Club of New York for no longer giving him and other Christian Fronters the cooperation which, he alleged, was formerly extended to them. McWilliams said that in the old days certain members of this prominent Republican Club had practically knocked one another over in the effort to lend the Front assistance in certain activities -- in making anti-New Deal sallies, etc. Now (Mac indignantly fumed) the helping hand had been withdrawn and replaced by the cold shoulder. He intimated a further physiological analogy: namely that the FBI arrests of 17 Front plotters had given these "certain members" of the Union League Club cold feet.

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KIN OF BROOKLYN TABLET EDITOR EXHORTS CHRISTIAN FRONT

Of late, a young man by the name of Jack Scanlon has been making increasingly vigorous anti-democratic, anti-Semitic speeches at Christian Front meetings. Recent examples of such harangues were those delivered at a Front meeting on the night of January 26 at Prospect Hall and at another gathering at the same place on February 2. It should perhaps be mentioned in passing that Jack Scanlon is the nephew of Patrick J. Scanlon of the Brooklyn Tablet. Uncle Pat has more than once seen fit to deny anti-Semitic tendencies on his own part. It might also be mentioned that a good deal of what young Jack says appears to be based on material appearing in the Brooklyn Tablet.

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TWO KLUXERS CONVICTED IN NEW JERSEY

Harold Chestnut, 28, of Jersey City and Fred J. Hoefflich, 22, of Roselle were convicted in Roselle's police court and fined \$15 each for burning a Klu Klux Klan cross near a Jewish synagogue in Roselle, New Jersey, and scattering Klan and anti-Semitic literature. The sentences were pronounced despite the threat by a Klan leader that there would be a riot if these men were not acquitted (see The Hour for February 10).

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COLONEL EMERSON OF PELLEY'S TESTIMONY IS NOTORIOUS NAZI AGENT

Man Who Offered to Enroll 15,000 Nazis as Silver Shirts Has Had a Checkered Career

On February 7, while testifying before the Dies Committee in Washington, William Dudley Pelley, founder and head of the fascist Silver Shirt Legion, revealed that he had received an offer to enroll as Silver Shirts no fewer than 15,000 Nazi Germans in America at ten dollars a head, and that the offer (which allegedly he rejected) had been made by a certain Colonel Edwin Emerson in a letter written from New York City. Immediately after this testimony was heard, press reporters in Washington tried to get in touch with Emerson at his residence in Belle Haven, Virginia, just across the Potomac River from the nation's capital. Emerson, according to the press, "could not be reached for comment."

Soldier of Fortune in Service of Reaction

The Hour hereby undertakes to answer whatever question the reporters might have wished to ask of Emerson. We state that Edwin Emerson is a Nazi agent who for years has been in close touch with American and European reactionaries. This information cannot of course be found in Who's Who in America, which merely informs the reader that Emerson is an American born in Dresden, Saxony, in 1869, was graduated from Harvard University in 1891, and served for many years as foreign war correspondent, writing both in English and German a number of books on his experiences.

In his writings and speeches Emerson boasts of his one-hundred per cent Americanism. Among his proudest claims is his service with Theodore Roosevelt's Rough Riders in Cuba during the Spanish-American War at the turn of the century, but he conveniently omits to tell that Teddy found him such a general nuisance that he had to bring Emerson back in irons. In 1917, while this country was at war with Germany, Edwin Emerson forgot his much-touted Americanism sufficiently to have a book of his published by the Munich publishing house of Franz Hanfstaengl. It was Mit den deutschen Heeren, Kriegsberichte eines Amerikaners, 1914-15 ("With the German armies, War reports by an American, 1914-15"). By way of preface there was included the photostat of a letter written and signed by Emerson from the headquarters of the Turkish Army at Damascus on February 6, 1917. The letter was to Herr Edgar Hanfstaengl, whom Emerson addressed as "Dear Friend." Therein he joyfully wrote that despite his, Emerson's, rank in the military forces of the United States, the German and Turkish authorities had assured him that in view of his pro-Central Power work in the past he would be treated "not as a prisoner of war but as a welcome guest," even if the strained relations between the United States and the Central Powers were to degenerate into a war -- as indeed they did within a few months. In closing Emerson assured Edgar Hanfstaengl that he regarded the American ambassador in Berlin as "traitor" and President Wilson's policy as "nearsighted." Incidentally, the Hanfstaengls who befriended and published Edwin Emerson were of the same

family to which the notorious Putzi Hanfstaengl belongs-- Putzi who, a Harvard man like Edwin Emerson, served as great friend and court-pianist to Hitler, only to flee in a mysterious hurry to England, where he is now well received by the British Tories.

The strange melange of Edwin Emerson's friends and connections, past and present, also includes that well-known American reactionary, who now advocates that United States' entrance into the war on the Allied side and heads Fighting-Funds for Finland, Inc., Major General John F. O'Ryan; in 1913-14, Edwin Emerson served as lieutenant-colonel and acting adjutant on Major General O'Ryan's staff, headquarters division, New York National Guard.

Helped Organize Forerunners of Bundsters

After Hitler's ascendancy, Edwin Emerson, while residing in New York City, had desk space with the German Consulate General at 17 Battery Place, and then, for better conspiracy, moved to Room 1923 in the same building. The room was rented for him by the Consul's representative, and at least on one occasion was paid for in cash by a Nazi official. Amerika's Deutsche Post, a Nazi paper filled with denunciations of Jews, in its issue for May 15, 1933, carried an advertisement indicating that its editor made his headquarters in Emerson's room. From the same room Emerson launched a brand-new organization called Friends of Germany, later renamed Friends of New Germany, eventually becoming the noisy German-American Bund.

Among other Nazi associates of Emerson's, there was Dr. Otto Heinrich Friedrich Vollbehr, who in 1930 sold a Gutenberg Bible and other rare items to the Library of Congress for \$1,500,000, and in April, 1939, fled to Germany in a cloud of debts, court suits, and governmental investigations (see The Hour for October 7, 1939). In the sale of the Bible and other incunabula Vollbehr was assisted by timely quotations on the floor of the House of Representatives from Edwin Emerson's monograph entitled Incunabulum Incunabulorum, in which the value of Vollbehr's Bible was highly praised (see Congressional Record, House, 1930, page 3253). Together with Vollbehr, Edwin Emerson spread anti-Semitic and anti-democratic propaganda in the United States.

One of the most important meetings between Edwin Emerson and other Nazi agents or sympathizers in this country to take place in recent years was arranged in Washington in the latter part of 1938. Among those present were: a certain Captain Kamp, an ex-U-boat officer of World War I who later became an oil-tanker captain and a lieutenant-commander in the U. S. Naval Reserve; and a Herr Von Borowsky, who also claimed to be in the United States military reserve.

The highest rank achieved by Edwin Emerson in the armed forces of the United States is that of lieutenant-colonel (National Guard). He nevertheless calls himself Colonel Emerson -- for that was the rank he held in Venezuelan Voluntary Cavalry in the Columbian campaign of 1901.

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Through the Hourglass

MICHAEL SAYERS

THE COMING OF SPRING

Spring is in the air, and all activities are quickened. Finland is already a closed chapter, although no doubt appendices will be supplied both in ink and in blood. Attention shifts to

the Near East, where rumors of an Allied offensive against Baku, of nationalist risings in Syria, of Turkish dreams of restoration of the Turkish Empire, all indicate that the new chapter will open here as soon as the frozen soil softens.

Meanwhile from London come persistent murmurs of changes in government. If the war is to be carried on, then the first offensive against Germany will take Chamberlain out of office and the Socialists into the French cabinet, it is said. On the other hand, if no offensive occurs, an entirely new world situation may result. The aspirations of Munich may be fulfilled, the 'war of attrition' redirected towards the East, and world politics 'simplified' via a wide anti-Comintern agreement. British diplomacy has, of course, toyed with this notion since the last war. It has never got beyond the conspiratorial stages for the simple reason that any British plan for a European coalition, whether of the pure Munich or the European Federation variety, comes into collision, not only with the Soviet Union, but also with the United States of America. Hence the diffidence of the British in connection with 'war aims' and 'peace terms.' Chasing the German Mark out of existence is to the advantage of both the Pound and the Dollar; but the chase ended last time in a disillusioning free-for-all, and there must be 'guarantees.'

It has become increasingly clear that immediate American involvement on the side of the Allies is unpopular and hence unlikely. Organized Labor and organized Youth, representing a strategic national voting force of considerable significance, have voiced their opposition, and the vast public-at-large remains anti-entanglement. Because of this, the highly vocal War-party in America must temporarily take a back seat. The substitution of 'preparedness' for 'peace' will continue; and the Dollar is to be 'protected' abroad. The departure last week of Myron Taylor and Sumner Welles on board the Italian liner Rex indicates an altering outlook on the part of American statesmanship towards the world crisis.

Italy becomes the key nation. Around Italy and Spain attempts are being made to organize a bloc of neutrals with an ideological facade derived from the Vatican's formula of 'defence of Western civilization and the Christian ethic.' Messrs. Welles and Taylor will have the task of maneuvering this neutral bloc out of the orbit of the Pound, and bringing it under the auspices of the Dollar, i. e. by basing it on wide financial and trade agreements with the U. S. and Latin America. In other words, instead of the neutral bloc being controlled by Anglo-French interests, American statesmanship (Hull and Roosevelt) envisages the bloc as acting ultimately to the advantage of America.

The British, of course, had hoped to utilize the proposed bloc of neutrals to further Anglo-French aims. The lukewarm politeness with which the British greet Messrs. Welles and Taylor is further evidence of a latent rivalry between Pound and Dollar, which must become increasingly keen.

And so the Spring comes on. Behind their steel and concrete fortifications on the Western Front, the armed and civilian populations of France, England and Germany are waiting, wondering. They are wondering what they are waiting for.

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